

False Rape Charge Lands Woman in Jail

5/5/66
By Claude Koprowski
Washington Post Staff Writer

A 21-year-old Northeast woman yesterday began the first of ten days she must spend in jail for keeping Jerry Ray there for 110 days. Bernice Chambers, who gave

her address as 640 Morris pl. ne., picked the sentence when Judge George D. Neilson of the Court of General Sessions gave her a choice of jail or a \$300 fine for submitting a false report.

The report — that she had been raped — implicated Ray, 19, and two juveniles and kept ten policemen and 15 prosecutors and other court personnel busy for months.

"It would have been an airtight case," Det. Robert deMilt of the Sex Squad said yesterday. See CONSENT, A11, Col. 1

CONSENT—From Page A1

False Rape Charge Lands Woman in Jail

day, had Miss Chambers not changed her story.

She reported to police last Christmas Eve that Ray and the juveniles, one of whom she had a date with that evening, attacked her in a basement apartment in the 800 block of Taylor st. ne.

Doctors at D. C. General Hospital confirmed that she had just had sexual relations.

Later that night police arrested Ray on a disorderly conduct charge. When he appeared in court Christmas Day to face a possible fine of \$10, Miss Chambers showed up to identify him as one of the assailants.

She again identified Ray in a police lineup, deMilt said, and he was jailed on a rape charge to await a pre-trial hearing.

Meanwhile, Sex Squad detectives were searching for the juveniles, one of whom they never found. The other, a 17-

year-old, was arrested Jan. 18.

He spent most of the next month in the Receiving Home, perhaps contemplating the false robbery report he once made to police, until he was released in his mother's custody.

By the time Ray's pre-trial hearing came up April 13, Sex Squad detectives had spent about 300 hours on the case. Nobody was more surprised than they when Miss Chambers announced that what happened Christmas Eve had been with her consent. Ray was freed.

"We only get the evidence. The courts felt it was enough to indict," Capt. Vernie E. Tate said yesterday. "The case must have been properly prepared. It was reviewed twice by the U.S. Attorney's office."

Miss Chambers was arrested Friday after she failed to appear at a hearing for the 17-year-old. The charge against him was dropped.